

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 SS-20 NSC-10

INT-08 TRSE-00 SCI-06 SCEM-02 SPC-03 PA-04 PRS-01

USIA-15 DRC-01 OMB-01 DOTE-00 FMC-04 CG-00 NEA-10

/152 W

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R 040820Z DEC 73

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2247

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LOURENCO MARQUES 0845

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, MZ

SUBJECT: ENERGY CRISIS: MOZAMBIQUE MISCELLANY

REF: LOURENCO MARQUES 799

1. THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN FUEL RESTRICTIONS ANNOUNCED
REFTEL, EXCEPT THAT SELECTED LIST OF GAS STATIONS OUTSIDE
MAIN CITIES HAVE BEEN AUTHORIZED OPERATE ON WEEKENDS AND
HOLIDAYS, INCLUDING STATIONS IN MAIN ENTRY TOWNS OF RESSANO
GARCIA (FOR TRANSVAAL), NAMAACHA (FOR SWAZILAND), AND PONTA
DO OURO. IN LOURENCO MARQUES, WEEKEND TRAVELLING HAS SLOWED
ONLY marginally, WITH MORE PEOPLE DRIVING AROUND TOWN THAN
ATTEMPTING LONG TRIPS. FILLING STATIONS HAVE SUFFERED FROM
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PERIODIC RUNS, WITH STATIONS RUNNING DRY AFTER BEING PAT-

RONIZED BY LONG LINES OF WAITING CARS NOT UNCOMMON, ESPECIALLY FRIDAY AFTERNOONS. UPCOUNTRY, PRESS IS BEGINNING TO REPORT SHORTAGES OF FUEL, ESPECIALLY DIESEL NEEDED FOR TRUCKS AND AGRICULTURAL TRACTORS.

2. PRESS HAS ANNOUNCED THAT CABINDA PREPARED TO PROVIDE ALL CRUDE OIL MOZAMBIQUE'S SONAREP REFINERY REQUIRES, BUT HAS NOT MENTIONED THE REFINERY MODIFICATIONS THAT REPORTEDLY WILL BE NEEDED. SONAP (PORTUGUESE OIL COMPANY) HAS CHARTERED AT LEAST ONE TANKER (PANAMA FLAG), AND DESPATCHED IT TO CABINDA. WE HAVE HEARD REPORT THAT ANOTHER CHARTERED TANKER LEFT A WEEK AGO FOR PERSIAN GULF TO PICK UP IRAQI OIL; THERE SEEMS TO BE LOCAL BELIEF THAT IRAQ NOT JOINING BOYCOTT. SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS NOVEMBER 30 REPORTS THAT TANKER WAS FORCED TO UNLOAD SAUDI OIL WHEN MOZAMBIQUE DISCOVERED TO BE DESTINATION; TWO OTHERS REPORTEDLY GOT AWAY FROM PORT IN TIME. CHANCE VISIT TO OIL TERMINAL DECEMBER 2 DISCLOSED TWO TANKERS; ONE SONAP TANKER APPARENTLY COMPLETING DISCHARGE OF OIL, AND ONE LADEN SOUTH AFRICAN TANKER (AFRICAN SHELL) REPORTEDLY CARRYING GASOLINE FROM DURBAN REFINERY FOR TRANS-SHIPMENT TO TRANSVAAL.

3. BUNKER FUEL FOR SHIPPING IN VERY SHORT SUPPLY, AND BEING DOLED OUT IN DROPS BY SONAREP REFINERY; CALTEX HAS BEEN ALLOCATED ONLY 416 TONS FOR MONTH OF DECEMBER. SHIPS GENERALLY BEING GIVEN ONLY ENOUGH FUEL TO REACH NEXT PORT, PLUS 10 PERCENT FOR CONTINGENCIES, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER ADDITIONAL FUEL WILL BE AVAILABLE THERE.

4. THOUGH GASOLINE SUPPOSED TO BE ONLY AVAILABLE TO FILL AUTOMOBILE GAS TANKS, FILLING STATION IN AT LEAST ONE RESORT TOWN WAS RECENTLY OFFERING FILL GAS CANS FOR PLEASURE MOTOR BOATS PRIVATELY BEHIND STATION; NEITHER PLEASURE BOATING NOR FLYING HAVE BEEN SUBJECTED TO SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS.

5. THERE ARE FEW IF ANY SIGNS OF SERIOUS PUBLIC CONCERN WITH FUEL CRISIS, THOUGH GENERALLY BELIEVED THAT LARGE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE ARE HOARDING GASOLINE. THERE SEEMS TO BE CERTAIN TENDENCY TO ORGANIZE CAR POOLS, ETC., BUT MORE BECAUSE OF GREATLY INCREASED COST OF GASOLINE THAN BECAUSE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF SCARCITY.

6. TAP AIRLINES REPORTEDLY TOPPING UP WITH JET FUEL HERE, WHERE THERE ARE SUPPOSED TO BE LARGE RESERVES, AND DISCHARGING SOME OF IT IN LUANDA WHERE GREATER SHORTAGE EXISTS.

7. COMMENT: SO FAR, AVERAGE MAN'S LIFE HERE HAS HARDLY

BEEN TOUCHED BY WORLD ENERGY CRISIS.
VAN OSS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM, SUPPLIES, GASOLINE, RATIONING, RETAIL PRICES, FUELING SYSTEMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973LOUREN00845
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: LOURENCO MARQUES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731247/aaaabihz.tel
Line Count: 117
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: LOURENCO MARQUES 799
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25-Sep-2001 by rowellE0>; APPROVED <28-Nov-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ENERGY CRISIS: MOZAMBIQUE MISCELLANY
TAGS: ENRG, MZ
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005